

Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 6
31 December 2017
Year B

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



VERITAS



Holy Family

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest
Fr Kieran Adams OP

Assistant Priests

Fr Rafael Cabezon OP
Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

Holy Rosary Church

Cnr Phillip Avenue &
Antill Street, Watson ACT

Postal Address
PO Box 900, Dickson

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Office Staff

Jacque Cortese
Jim Smith

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9.00am—12.30pm

Parish Council

Andrew Blakey

Mass times

Wed 5.30pm
Tues & Thurs 6.45am
Fri 5.30pm

Saturday 5pm (Vigil)
Sunday 8am, 10am & 5pm

9am Mass Saturday & Public
Holidays
excluding Mondays

Pray the Rosary

Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass
Saturday after 9am Mass
and First Saturday each month
3.30pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm
and 4pm—4.30pm

**If you are in Urgent need of
a Priest Call - 6248 8253**



A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

ENTRANCE	The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!
COMMUNION	Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.
READINGS	Genesis 15:1-6. 21:1-3 Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

The most important

gifts you can

give are your Love,

Your Time and

Your Attention



RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 104:1-6, 8-9

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works!

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

OFFICE CLOSED

**The office will be closed from Friday 22nd Dec
until Monday 8th Jan. To contact a Priest
please call 6248 8253 any other urgent
matters 0448 737 700**

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

The title 'Mother of God' was first used by Saint Elizabeth at the Visitation, 'And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me,' (Luke 1:43). Found in early liturgical prayers, according to Saint Cyril (5th century), this term 'Mother of God' (in Greek, *Theotokos* means 'bearing God') was familiar to the early Church. It was employed by Saint Ignatius of Antioch (c.90) and Saint Athanasius (c.373) and finally sanctioned at the Council of Ephesus (431). 'Mary has a special role in the Catholic Church. After Christ, Mary is the most important figure in heaven. As one who has experienced the resurrection of the body, Mary is also very close to us as we live our life here on earth. Catholics do not worship Mary but give her due honour because of her role in bringing Jesus Christ to birth.'



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU



Fr Kieran, Fr Rafael and Fr Bernie as well as members of the Parish Team would like to thank all parishioners for your generosity and help during the year.

We have a huge list of people to acknowledge. 'Thank You' to the members Parish Finance Council & Parish Pastoral Council, to the Acolytes, Readers,

Eucharistic Ministers, School of Religion, Musicians & Choir, Flower Ladies, Pastoral Care Groups, Altar Linen Carers, Data Projector operators, Counters & Collectors, St Vincent de Paul members, Prayer & Reflection Groups, Social Function Organisers, Maintenance, Garden Care, BBQ helpers, Children's Christmas Mass & Crib Organisers, the four ladies that help in the office & all the other quiet achievers who contribute to the life of our wonderful Parish!

Happy New year to all.

THE GOOD OF THE FAMILY

Today's liturgy speaks of two families. The first is the family that consists of parents and children: "The shepherds ... found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger." The first two readings are about the qualities of the people who make up such a family, and we pray that God may "unite our families in peace and love."

We also pray that God may "help us to live as the holy family, united in respect and love." Here the liturgy concerns the human family, of which the Holy Family is also a model: "we want to live as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in peace with you and one another."

Linking these two families, one's immediate family and the human family, today's liturgy prompts us to think of their common welfare. It raises the possibility that our two families rise and fall together.

Perhaps it is no accident that in this age of the universally recognized disintegration of the family, the world is also experiencing a breakup into rich and poor, developed and underdeveloped, the privileged and the marginal.

Perhaps now more than ever, we need to beg God to "show us the value of family life and help us to live in peace with all men."

At a moment in which the family is the object of numerous forces that seek to destroy it or in some way to deform it, and aware that the well-being of society and her own good are intimately tied to the good of the family, the church perceives in a more urgent and compelling way her mission of proclaiming to all people the plan of God for marriage and family, ensuring their full vitality and human and Christian development, and thus contributing to the renewal of society and of the people of God.

Gerald Darring <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:	Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Fr Ellis Clifford, Philip Bailey, Dion Convine, Edith Jensen, Mary Harrigan, Philip Bailey, Patricia Zorzi, Maureen Blood, Charles Ryan, Barbara Wilson, Anne Corver, Awny El-Ghitany, Joebert Tabiola, Elsie Laughton, Beth Delos Santos, Rosa Maria Santos, Rosemary Denmead, Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster, Alexia Harris, Mimma Giampietro, Joe Schimizzi, Lynn & Richard Bale, Zelma McManus
Please remember our deceased:	Mollie Bouquet, Waqaas Ashraf
In loving memory	Bill McManus

PEACE, CONSOLATION, AND GLORY

In the Gospel Reading, Simeon is waiting in the Temple, because the Holy Spirit has revealed to him that he will meet the Messiah there. When Simeon does finally see Jesus, the Gospel tells us, Simeon had been waiting a long time. Waiting can be so hard. Think of the young mother waiting for lab results about her cancer, or the old lady waiting for news about her son in Afghanistan. Think of the aspiring novelist waiting to hear if the press will accept his manuscript or the scientist waiting to know if his life’s work will be honoured with a great prize. Peace is so often lost by such a wait. If God himself gives a person consolation, he will have God’s peace as well. While a person is waiting, he is anxious—what if the thing he is waiting for never comes? And he is sad or sorrowful, because he does not yet have the thing he wants and is waiting for. Then there’s the undeniable humiliation of having to wait. A person who waits knows that what he wants depends on things outside his own control. Having to wait brings home to him his vulnerability and neediness. And so look at what Simeon says when his wait is finally over and he sees Jesus.

Seeing this baby, Simeon says, let Simeon die in peace. This baby overturns anxiety and brings peace—not a theoretical kind of peace which has no purchase on a person’s emotions, but real peace, the kind that brings with it easy breathing.

And why peace? Because, as the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon, this baby is God’s consolation for all his people. If God himself gives a person consolation, he will have God’s peace as well. And, finally, this peace is not the kind of peace that makes a person ready to accept defeat with resignation. No, on the contrary: it makes a person rise to glory. That is why Simeon says in his prayer that this baby brings glory to God’s people.

And so here is the thing for us to think about at Christmas time. In our anxieties, in our sorrows, in our defeats and humiliations, can we turn and look at this baby? No matter what anxiety, sorrow, or defeat the world has given us, nothing can take this baby away from us. Our consolation, our peace, and our glory lie with him.

Eleonore Stump <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

CLOTHE YOURSELVES

A virtue is simply a habit of doing something good. Eventually it becomes almost automatic. This builds self-discipline and helps you pass through circumstances when you have to act quickly without thinking. How do you develop a virtue if you are weak in it? Part of the answer is given by Paul in the second reading. He suggests that we "clothe ourselves" or "put on" these good habits. He seems to be implying that we have to pretend that we have the virtues, even if we don't. After a while the pretence becomes a reality. In other words, when you act out a scenario eventually you come to "wear" the role. Pretend to be good and gradually you become good.

catholiceducators.com/lonsdale.htm

HOLY WAITING

*The Feast of the Holy Family.
fr Dominic Ryan OP explains
the significance of Jesus Christ's family life.*

The Feast of the Holy Family is connected to Christmas. At Christmas what we’re celebrating is the beginning of God’s final move in the history of salvation. The world is to be redeemed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ isn’t just a human being, though, Christ is also truly divine: Christ is fully and truly human and fully and truly God. Therefore, if it’s Christ’s death and resurrection that will redeem us and Christ is both human and divine, then in order for this to happen God had first to come into the world as a human being and that’s what we celebrate at Christmas.

But at the risk of stating the obvious, because Christ was both human and divine Christ was different to us all of us. Christ was different to us in virtue of his humanity because he was perfect in holiness and he didn’t sin and we shouldn’t forget this when we reflect on our own frailties. But Christ was also different to us in virtue of his divinity and to understand the Feast of the Holy Family that’s where we need to focus our attention. In virtue of his divinity Christ could do things we couldn’t do and Christ’s age made no difference to that. Thus, for example, St Luke describes Christ going to the Temple whilst still a child, sitting among the Masters of the Law and teaching them. That would be extraordinary behaviour by any normal standard but not so in the case of Christ because he was divine. Indeed, from the moment he became Incarnate Christ was perfectly equipped to teach us and bring us to our salvation. Instead, however, he chose to live with his family and wait until later in his life to begin his public ministry.

So given the urgency of Christ’s work what was going on? Well it’s quite common to undergo a period of preparation before undertaking a task. That preparation necessary can vary. It might include a formal period of instruction or it might just be a case of waiting for the right moment- perhaps until we’re old enough to do whatever it is we want to do. And that’s what’s happened here. Christ waited until adulthood to begin his mission in order to make what he had to say more plausible for us. And the place where he waited was among his family. Nor is this insignificant; after all one of the key functions of a family is to provide a warm and loving space in which children can mature and ultimately go out from to find their own place in the world. So that’s one reason why the Holy Family were important. But it’s not the only one. Because unlike a normal child Christ didn’t need to spend time preparing for adult life he just did so for our benefit, to make our acceptance of his message easier. That’s not to say however that the time Christ spent waiting for adulthood and the start of his mission was wasted. Rather Christ used that time to live under God’s law as it was at that time, just as any Jew of his time would have had to do also. Thus we find St Luke telling us about Christ being circumcised, named and presented in the Temple, all as the Law required. Now none of this was necessary for Christ, Christ could have achieved his goals without it. Rather the point of choosing to live under the Law is to connect Christ’s mission with God’s earlier revelation of himself in the Old Testament. God only has one plan of salvation, it’s revealed to us in the Old Testament and then it’s perfected and completed by Christ the Word made flesh who dwelt among us.

Of course, the context in which Christ lived under God’s Law was that of his family, the Holy Family. It’s there that Christ took the Law to himself, so that subsequently he could perfect it, and it’s there that Christ’s first move in offering a definitive and complete sacrifice to his Father were made. Now given that we share in this sacrifice through our incorporation into Christ at our baptism and that Christ’s first move in offering that sacrifice occurred in the Holy Family, then the Holy Family cannot but be important to our faith. Let’s pray today then that our reflection on the Holy Family will deepen our appreciation of Christ and his atoning sacrifice.

<http://english.op.org/torch>

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

CATECHISTS FOR 2018

Our Parish is looking for Catechists for 2018 to assist our team currently teaching School of Religion classes on Sunday mornings. No prior experience is necessary, other than an interest in teaching Primary school-aged children about their Catholic faith. A commitment is required of approximately 2-hours each week during school term time. Classes begin 11 February 2018. Training and support is offered by the Archdiocese. Please contact Jacquie Cortese at the Parish Office if you'd like more information.

BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP meets on **Thursday** evenings in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 Explore at www.wccm.org

CARDS Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

COFFEE GROUP Our monthly coffee group will meet at Wilbur's, Hackett on the **third Thursday** of each month at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, and newcomers most welcome.

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

DOMINICAN LIBRARY will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP Divine Will Prayer Group meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Details Heather 6247 7775.

WEEKLY READER FORMATION Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

PRAY THE ROSARY will be held the First Saturday of every month at 3.30pm in the Church. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For more information call Letty on 0418 518 033

CARE OF THE SICK If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. If someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

COELIACS Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seats by using T-switch on your hearing aid.

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacquie in the office Ph. 6248 5925 Fax.6248 7564 or Email: watson@cg.org.au

IMPORTANT

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings (6mths) and Baptisms. **It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office.**

If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than **Tuesday** of that week. For all other bookings Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. a minimum two weeks notice is required.

ONLY GOD can turn a MESS into a MESSAGE....a TEST into a TESTIMONY...a TRIAL into a TRIUMPH...a VICTIM into a VICTORY!!

EVENTS

31 DECEMBER – MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

The 11th Annual New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil, St Michael's Church Ka-leen, Sunday 31st December at 8.30pm. First Cenacle is prayed at 8.45pm (Joyful Mysteries), Second Cenacle at 9.45pm (Luminous Mysteries), Third Cenacle at 10.45 (Glorious Mysteries). Exposition from 8.30pm until 11.45pm followed by Midnight Mass. For further inquiries – Judy & Joe Mewburn 6245 6202

9 - 11 February - SEEKING THE MIND OF CHRIST

Parishioners are invited to a living encounter and a life transforming experience with the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit from the 9th to the 11th February 2018.

9 February - St Monica's Church: Evatt from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

10 February - St Brigid's Church: Dickson from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

11 February - St Brigid's Church: Dickson from 10.30am to 5.30pm.

Conducted by Brother Lalith Perera, Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Father Ken Barker with support from Fr Bernie Patterson and Loi Viovicente. Lunch will be available at a nominal price or BYO. A crèche will also be available for children. Contact: Shan 0412 310364; Karen 0402 160401; Sean 0448 510237.

18 - 15 January - CAMPION COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM

Campion College are offering a 'Summer Program' from 8 to 15 January 2018. An opportunity to experience college: literature, history, hiking, coastal walks & swims, theology, philosophy, sports and other activities. Registration: \$390 per person with financial assistance available. Contact: study@campion.edu.au / www.campion.edu.au/summer

TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Marriage breakdown is usually a traumatic experience for all those concerned with many divorcees unsure of the validity of this marriage within the Catholic Church. The Church reaches out in support of those whose marriage has broken down, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. If you are divorced or in the process of finalising your divorce and would like information about the annulment process, please contact the Tribunal on 6239 9813 or tribunal@cg.org.au. All enquiries remain confidential to the Tribunal.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL - THANK YOU

"Thank you" to parishioners' and Rosary School parents for contributions to the hampers. Special THANKS for the assistance from "The Merici Elves - Andrew and his assistants" in the sorting of contributions and packing of the hampers. Thanks also goes to those who delivered the hampers and not the least to St Vincent de Paul members who work tirelessly during the year.

ROSTERS 6 / 7 January 2018

Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	M. Tran	
Readers	A. Blakey	M. Cox
Presentation of Gifts	Blakey Family	
EMOE	T. O'Neill	

Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand	
Readers	M. Falk	E. Smith
Presentation of Gifts	Lestone Family	
EMOE	E. M. Falk	

Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	J. Wade	
Readers	C. Rheinberger	
Presentation of Gifts	Musolino Family	
EMOE	B. Affas	S. Tanzer

Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	L. Kim	
Readers	V. Van der Sanden	T. Ryan
Presentation of Gifts	J. Curnow	
EMOE	C. de Luca	T. de Luca
Counters	F. Higgins	N. Higgins